

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD  
RC PETITION

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Case No.

29-RC-269454

Date Filed

11/27/2020

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Unless e-Filed using the Agency's website, [www.nlr.gov/](http://www.nlr.gov/), submit an original of this Petition to an NLRB office in the Region in which the employer concerned is located. The petition must be accompanied by both a showing of interest (see 6b below) and a certificate of service showing service on the employer and all other parties named in the petition of: (1) the petition; (2) Statement of Position form (Form NLRB-505); and (3) Description of Representation Case Procedures (Form NLRB 4812). The showing of interest should only be filed with the NLRB and should not be served on the employer or any other party.

**1. PURPOSE OF THIS PETITION: RC-CERTIFICATION OF REPRESENTATIVE** A substantial number of employees wish to be represented for purposes of collective bargaining by Petitioner and Petitioner desires to be certified as representative of the employees. The Petitioner alleges that the following circumstances exist and requests that the National Labor Relations Board proceed under its proper authority pursuant to Section 9 of the National Labor Relations Act.

**2a. Name of Employer:**

Verso Books, Inc.

**2b. Address(es) of Establishment(s) involved (Street and number, City, State, ZIP code):**

20 Jay Street, Suite 1010, Brooklyn, NY 11201

**3a. Employer Representative Name and Title:**

Jacob Stevens, Director

**3b. Address (if same as 2b state same):**

[same]

**3c. Tel. No.**

718-246-8169

**3d. Cell No.****3e. Fax No.**

718-246-8165

**3f. E Mail Address**

jacob@versobooks.com

**4a. Type of Establishment (Factory, mine, wholesaler, etc.)**

publisher

**4b. Principal Product or Service**

books

**5a. City and State where unit is located:**

Brooklyn NY

**5b. Description of Unit Involved:****Included:**

[see attached]

**Excluded:**

[see attached]

**6a. Number of Employees in Unit:**

11

**6b. Do a substantial number (30% or more) of the employees in the unit wish to be represented by the Petitioner?** ☒ Yes ☐ No**Check One:** ☐ 7a. Request for recognition as Bargaining Representative was made on (Date) 11/16/20 and Employer declined recognition on or about (Date) (If no reply received, so state).☐ 7b. Petitioner is currently recognized as Bargaining Representative and desires certification under the Act.**8a. Name of Recognized or Certified Bargaining Agent (if none, so state)****8b. Address:****8c. Tel. No.****8d. Cell No.****8e. Fax No.****8f. E Mail Address****8g. Affiliation, if any:****8h. Date of Recognition or Certification****8i. Expiration Date of Current or Most Recent Contract, if any (Month, Day, Year)****9. Is there now a strike or picketing at the Employer's establishment(s) involved?** ☒ No ☐ Yes If so, approximately how many employees are participating?

(Name of Labor Organization) \_\_\_\_\_, has picketed the Employer since (Month, Day, Year) \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Organizations or individuals other than Petitioner and those named in items 8 and 9, which have claimed recognition as representatives and other organizations and individuals known to have a representative interest in any employees in the unit described in item 5b above. (If none, so state)****10a. Name****10b. Address****10c. Tel. No.****10d. Cell No.****10e. Fax No.****10f. E Mail Address****11. Election Details:** If the NLRB conducts and election in this matter, state your position with respect to any such election:**11a. Election Type:**☐ Manual ☒ Mail ☐ Mixed Manual/Mail**11b. Election Date(s):**

December 15, 2020

**11c. Election Time(s):****11d. Election Location(s):****12a. Full Name of Petitioner (including local name and number):**

Washington-Baltimore News Guild, Local 32035

**12b. Address (street and number, city, State and ZIP code):**

1225 I Street NW, Washington, DC 20005

**12c. Full name of national or international labor organization of which Petitioner is an affiliate or constituent (if none, so state):**

The News Guild - Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, CLC

**12d. Tel. No.**

202-785-3650 x12

**12e. Cell No.****12f. Fax No.**

202-785-3659

**12g. E-Mail Address**

cparks@wbng.org

**13. Representative of the Petitioner who will accept service of all papers for purposes of the representation proceeding.****13a. Name and Title:**

Robert E. Paul, Attorney

**13b. Address (street and number, city, State and ZIP code):**

1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036

**13c. Tel. No.**

202-857-5000

**13d. Cell No.**

202-374-0550

**13e. Fax No.**

202-327-5499

**13f. E Mail Address**

rpaul@robertepaul.com

**I declare that I have read the above petition and that the statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.****Name (Print)**

Robert E. Paul

**Signature****Title**

Attorney

**Date**

11/24/20

**W LFUL FALSE STATEMENTS ON THIS PETITION CAN BE PUNISHED BY FINE AND IMPRISONMENT (U.S. CODE, TITLE 18, SECTION 1001)****PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT**

Solicitation of the information on this form is authorized by the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), 29 U.S.C. § 151 et seq. The principal use of the information is to assist the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in processing representation and related proceedings or litigation. The routine uses for the information are fully set forth in the Federal Register, 71 Fed. Reg. 74942 43 (Dec. 13, 2006). The NLRB will further explain these uses upon request. Disclosure of this information to the NLRB is voluntary; however, failure to supply the information may cause the NLRB to decline to invoke its processes.

**VERSO BOOKS, INC.**  
**NLRB PETITION FOR CERTIFICATION**

DESCRIPTION OF UNIT INVOLVED

*Included:*

All employees in the marketing and publicity department, operations/ IT department, managing editorial department, accounts department, and editorial department

*Excluded:*

Supervisors, managerial employees, confidential employees and guards as defined in the Act.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

REGION 29  
Two Metro Tech Center  
Suite 5100  
Brooklyn, NY 11201-3838

Agency Website: [www.nlrb.gov](http://www.nlrb.gov)  
Telephone: (718)330-7713  
Fax: (718)330-7579



Download  
NLRB  
Mobile App

November 27, 2020

**URGENT**

Verso Books, Inc.  
20 Jay Street  
Suite 1010  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Re: Verso Books, Inc.  
Case 29-RC-269454

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed is a copy of a petition that Washington-Baltimore News Guild, Local 32035 filed with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) seeking to represent certain of your employees. After a petition is filed, the employer is required to promptly take certain actions so please read this letter carefully to make sure you are aware of the employer's obligations. This letter tells you how to contact the Board agent who will be handling this matter, about the requirement to post and distribute the Notice of Petition for Election, the requirement to complete and serve a Statement of Position Form, the Petitioner's requirement to complete and serve a Responsive Statement of Position Form, a scheduled hearing in this matter, other information needed including a voter list, your right to be represented, and NLRB procedures, including how to submit documents to the NLRB.

**Investigator:** This petition will be investigated by Field Attorney JAIME COSLOY whose telephone number is (718)765-6188. The Board agent will contact you shortly to discuss processing the petition. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Board agent. If the agent is not available, you may contact Supervisory Attorney TERRI A. CRAIG whose telephone number is (718)765-6174. The Board agent may also contact you and the other party or parties to schedule a conference meeting or telephonic or video conference for some time before the close of business the day following receipt of the final Responsive Statement(s) of Position. This will give the parties sufficient time to determine if any issues can be resolved prior to hearing or if a hearing is necessary. If appropriate, the NLRB attempts to schedule an election either by agreement of the parties or by holding a hearing and then directing an election.

**Required Posting and Distribution of Notice:** You must post the enclosed Notice of Petition for Election by **Friday, December 4, 2020**, in conspicuous places, including all places where notices to employees are customarily posted. The Notice of Petition for Election must be posted so all pages are simultaneously visible. If you customarily communicate electronically with employees in the petitioned-for unit, you must also distribute the notice electronically to them. You must maintain the posting until the petition is dismissed or withdrawn or this notice is replaced by the Notice of Election. Posting and distribution of the Notice of Petition for

Election will inform the employees whose representation is at issue and the employer of their rights and obligations under the National Labor Relations Act in the representation context. Failure to post or distribute the notice may be grounds for setting aside an election if proper and timely objections are filed.

**Required Statement of Position:** In accordance with Section 102.63(b) of the Board's Rules, the employer is required to complete the enclosed Statement of Position form (including the attached Commerce Questionnaire), have it signed by an authorized representative, and file a completed copy (with all required attachments) with this office and serve it on all parties named in the petition such that it is received by them by **noon Eastern Time on December 9, 2020**. This form solicits information that will facilitate entry into election agreements or streamline the pre-election hearing if the parties are unable to enter into an election agreement. **This form must be e-Filed, but unlike other e-Filed documents, will *not* be timely if filed on the due date but after noon Eastern Time.** If you have questions about this form or would like assistance in filling out this form, please contact the Board agent named above.

*List(s) of Employees:* The employer's Statement of Position must include a list of the full names, work locations, shifts, and job classifications of all individuals in the proposed unit as of the payroll period preceding the filing of the petition who remain employed at the time of filing. If the employer contends that the proposed unit is inappropriate, the employer must separately list the full names, work locations, shifts and job classifications of all individuals that it contends must be added to the proposed unit to make it an appropriate unit. The employer must also indicate those individuals, if any, whom it believes must be excluded from the proposed unit to make it an appropriate unit. These lists must be alphabetized (overall or by department). Unless the employer certifies that it does not possess the capacity to produce the lists in the required form, the lists must be in a table in a Microsoft Word file (.doc or .docx) or a file that is compatible with Microsoft Word, the first column of the table must begin with each employee's last name, and the font size of the list must be the equivalent of Times New Roman 10 or larger. That font does not need to be used but the font must be that size or larger. A sample, optional form for the list is provided on the NLRB website at [www.nlr.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/basic-page/node-4559/Optional Forms for Voter List.docx](http://www.nlr.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/basic-page/node-4559/Optional%20Forms%20for%20Voter%20List.docx)

*Failure to Supply Information:* Failure to supply the information requested by this form may preclude you from litigating issues under Section 102.66(d) of the Board's Rules and Regulations. Section 102.66(d) provides as follows:

A party shall be precluded from raising any issue, presenting any evidence relating to any issue, cross-examining any witness concerning any issue, and presenting argument concerning any issue that the party failed to raise in its timely Statement of Position or to place in dispute in response to another party's Statement of Position or response, except that no party shall be precluded from contesting or presenting evidence relevant to the Board's statutory jurisdiction to process the petition. Nor shall any party be precluded, on the grounds that a voter's eligibility or inclusion was not contested at the pre-election hearing,

from challenging the eligibility of any voter during the election. If a party contends that the proposed unit is not appropriate in its Statement of Position but fails to specify the classifications, locations, or other employee groupings that must be added to or excluded from the proposed unit to make it an appropriate unit, the party shall also be precluded from raising any issue as to the appropriateness of the unit, presenting any evidence relating to the appropriateness of the unit, cross-examining any witness concerning the appropriateness of the unit, and presenting argument concerning the appropriateness of the unit. If the employer fails to timely furnish the lists of employees described in §§ 102.63(b)(1)(iii), (b)(2)(iii), or (b)(3)(iii), the employer shall be precluded from contesting the appropriateness of the proposed unit at any time and from contesting the eligibility or inclusion of any individuals at the pre-election hearing, including by presenting evidence or argument, or by cross-examination of witnesses.

**Responsive Statement of Position:** In accordance with Section 102.63(b) of the Board's Rules, following timely filing and service of an employer's Statement of Position, the petitioner is required to complete the enclosed Responsive Statement of Position form, have it signed by an authorized representative, and file a completed copy with any necessary attachments, with this office and serve it on all parties named in the petition responding to the issues raised in the employer's Statement of Position, such that it is received no later than **noon Eastern Time on December 14, 2020.**

**Notice of Hearing:** A hearing will be conducted before a hearing officer by Videoconference starting **at 9:30 a.m. on December 17, 2020.** The Region will provide the parties with the information necessary to participate in the videoconference hearing in a separate communication with the parties. At the hearing, the parties will have the right to appear in person or otherwise and give testimony. The hearing will continue on consecutive days until concluded.

Upon request of a party showing good cause, the regional director may postpone the hearing. A party desiring a postponement should make the request to the regional director in writing, set forth in detail the grounds for the request, and include the positions of the other parties regarding the postponement. E-Filing the request is required. A copy of the request must be served simultaneously on all the other parties, and that fact must be noted in the request.

**Other Information Needed Now:** Please submit to this office, as soon as possible, the following information needed to handle this matter:

- (a) A copy of any existing or recently expired collective-bargaining agreements, and any amendments or extensions, or any recognition agreements covering any of your employees in the unit involved in the petition (the petitioned-for unit);
- (b) The name and contact information for any other labor organization (union) claiming to represent any of the employees in the petitioned-for unit;



- (c) If potential voters will need notices or ballots translated into a language other than English, the names of those languages and dialects, if any.
- (d) If you desire a formal check of the showing of interest, you must provide an alphabetized payroll list of employees in the petitioned-for unit, with their job classifications, for the payroll period immediately before the date of this petition. Such a payroll list should be submitted as early as possible prior to the hearing. Ordinarily a formal check of the showing of interest is not performed using the employee list submitted as part of the Statement of Position.

**Voter List:** If an election is held in this matter, the employer must transmit to this office and to the other parties to the election, an alphabetized list of the full names, work locations, shifts, job classifications, and contact information (including home addresses, available personal email addresses, and available home and personal cellular telephone numbers) of eligible voters. Usually, the list must be furnished within 2 business days of the issuance of the Decision and Direction of Election or approval of an election agreement. I am advising you of this requirement now, so that you will have ample time to prepare this list. The list must be electronically filed with the Region and served electronically on the other parties. To guard against potential abuse, this list may not be used for purposes other than the representation proceeding, NLRB proceedings arising from it or other related matters.

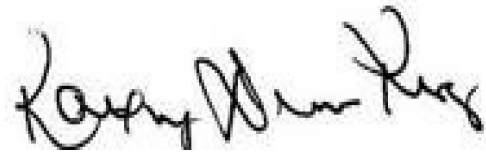
**Right to Representation:** You have the right to be represented by an attorney or other representative in any proceeding before us. If you choose to be represented, your representative must notify us in writing of this fact as soon as possible by completing Form NLRB-4701, Notice of Appearance. This form is available on our website, [www.nlr.gov](http://www.nlr.gov), or at the Regional office upon your request.

If someone contacts you about representing you in this case, please be assured that no organization or person seeking your business has any “inside knowledge” or favored relationship with the NLRB. Their knowledge regarding this matter was only obtained through access to information that must be made available to any member of the public under the Freedom of Information Act.

**Procedures:** Pursuant to Section 102.5 of the Board’s Rules and Regulations, parties must submit all documentary evidence, including statements of position, exhibits, sworn statements, and/or other evidence, by electronically submitting (E-Filing) them through the Agency’s web site ([www.nlr.gov](http://www.nlr.gov)). You must e-file all documents electronically or provide a written statement explaining why electronic submission is not possible or feasible. Failure to comply with Section 102.5 will result in rejection of your submission. The Region will make its determinations solely based on the documents and evidence properly submitted. All evidence submitted electronically should be in the form in which it is normally used and maintained in the course of business (i.e., native format). Where evidence submitted electronically is not in native format, it should be submitted in a manner that retains the essential functionality of the native format (i.e., in a machine-readable and searchable electronic format). If you have questions about the submission of evidence or expect to deliver a large quantity of electronic records, please promptly contact the Board agent investigating the petition.

Information about the NLRB and our customer service standards is available on our website, [www.nlr.gov](http://www.nlr.gov), or from an NLRB office upon your request. We can provide assistance for persons with limited English proficiency or disability. Please let us know if you or any of your witnesses would like such assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Drew-King", written in a cursive style.

KATHY DREW-KING  
Regional Director

Enclosures

1. Petition
2. Notice of Petition for Election (Form 5492)
3. Notice of Representation Hearing
4. Description of Procedures in Certification and Decertification Cases (Form 4812)
5. Statement of Position form and Commerce Questionnaire (Form 505)
6. Responsive Statement of Position (Form 506)

cc: Jacobs Stevens, Director  
Verso Books, Inc.  
20 Jay Street  
Suite 1010  
Brooklyn, NY 11201



# National Labor Relations Board



## NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ELECTION

This notice is to inform employees that Washington-Baltimore News Guild, Local 32035 has filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), a Federal agency, in Case 29-RC-269454 seeking an election to become certified as the representative of the employees of Verso Books, Inc. in the unit set forth below:

**Included:** All employees in the marketing and publicity department, operations/ IT department, managing editorial department, accounts department, and editorial department  
**Excluded:** Supervisors, managerial employees, confidential employees and guards as defined in the Act.

This notice also provides you with information about your basic rights under the National Labor Relations Act, the processing of the petition, and rules to keep NLRB elections fair and honest.

## YOU HAVE THE RIGHT under Federal Law

- To self-organization
- To form, join, or assist labor organizations
- To bargain collectively through representatives of your own choosing
- To act together for the purposes of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection
- To refuse to do any or all of these things unless the union and employer, in a state where such agreements are permitted, enter into a lawful union-security agreement requiring employees to pay periodic dues and initiation fees. Nonmembers who inform the union that they object to the use of their payments for nonrepresentational purposes may be required to pay only their share of the union's costs of representational activities (such as collective bargaining, contract administration, and grievance adjustments).

## PROCESSING THIS PETITION

Elections do not necessarily occur in all cases after a petition is filed. **NO FINAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE YET** regarding the appropriateness of the proposed unit or whether an election will be held in this matter. If appropriate, the NLRB will first see if the parties will enter into an election agreement that specifies the method, date, time, and location of an election and the unit of employees eligible to vote. If the parties do not enter into an election agreement, usually a hearing is held to receive evidence on the appropriateness of the unit and other issues in dispute. After a hearing, an election may be directed by the NLRB, if appropriate.

**IF AN ELECTION IS HELD**, it will be conducted by the NLRB by secret ballot and Notices of Election will be posted before the election giving complete details for voting.

## ELECTION RULES



The NLRB applies rules that are intended to keep its elections fair and honest and that result in a free choice. If agents of any party act in such a way as to interfere with your right to a free election, the election can be set aside by the NLRB. Where appropriate the NLRB provides other remedies, such as reinstatement for employees fired for exercising their rights, including backpay from the party responsible for their discharge.

The following are examples of conduct that interfere with employees' rights and may result in setting aside the election:

- Threatening loss of jobs or benefits by an employer or a union
- Promising or granting promotions, pay raises, or other benefits, to influence an employee's vote by a party capable of carrying out such promises
- An employer firing employees to discourage or encourage union activity or a union causing them to be fired to encourage union activity
- Making campaign speeches to assembled groups of employees on company time, where attendance is mandatory, within the 24-hour period before the polls for the election first open or, if the election is conducted by mail, from the time and date the ballots are scheduled to be sent out by the Region until the time and date set for their return
- Incitement by either an employer or a union of racial or religious prejudice by inflammatory appeals
- Threatening physical force or violence to employees by a union or an employer to influence their votes

Please be assured that IF AN ELECTION IS HELD, every effort will be made to protect your right to a free choice under the law. Improper conduct will not be permitted. All parties are expected to cooperate fully with the NLRB in maintaining basic principles of a fair election as required by law. The NLRB as an agency of the United States Government does not endorse any choice in the election.

For additional information about the processing of petitions, go to [www.nlr.gov](http://www.nlr.gov) or contact the NLRB at (718)330-7713.

THIS IS AN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT NOTICE AND MUST NOT BE DEFACED BY ANYONE. IT MUST REMAIN POSTED WITH ALL PAGES SIMULTANEOUSLY VISIBLE UNTIL REPLACED BY THE NOTICE OF ELECTION OR THE PETITION IS DISMISSED OR WITHDRAWN.



## National Labor Relations Board





**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
BEFORE THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD  
REGION 29**



<b>Verso Books, Inc.</b>  <b>Employer</b>  <b>and</b>  <b>Washington-Baltimore News Guild, Local 32035</b>  <b>Petitioner</b>	<b>Case 29-RC-269454</b>
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**NOTICE OF REPRESENTATION HEARING**

The Petitioner filed the attached petition pursuant to Section 9(c) of the National Labor Relations Act. It appears that a question affecting commerce exists as to whether the employees in the unit described in the petition wish to be represented by a collective-bargaining representative as defined in Section 9(a) of the Act.


YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that, pursuant to Sections 3(b) and 9(c) of the Act, at 10:00 AM on **Wednesday, December 17, 2020** and on consecutive days thereafter until concluded, by video conference. At the hearing, the parties will have the right to appear in person or otherwise, and to give testimony. The Region will provide the parties with the information necessary to participate in the videoconference hearing in a separate communication with the parties.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that, pursuant to Section 102.63(b) of the Board's Rules and Regulations, Verso Books, Inc. must complete the Statement of Position and file it and all attachments with the Regional Director and serve it on the parties listed on the petition such that is received by them by no later than **noon** Eastern time on **December 9, 2020**. Following timely filing and service of a Statement of Position by Verso Books, Inc., the Petitioner must complete its Responsive Statement of Position(s) responding to the issues raised in the Employer's and/or Union's Statement of Position and file them and all attachments with the Regional Director and serve them on the parties named in the petition such that they are received by them no later than **noon** Eastern on **December 14, 2020**.

**Pursuant to Section 102.5 of the Board's Rules and Regulations, all documents filed in cases before the Agency must be filed by electronically submitting (E-Filing) through the Agency's website ([www.nlrb.gov](http://www.nlrb.gov)), unless the party filing the document does not have access to the means for filing electronically or filing electronically would impose an undue burden.** Documents filed by means other than E-Filing must be accompanied by a statement explaining why the filing party does not have access to the means for filing electronically or filing electronically would impose an undue burden. Detailed instructions for using the NLRB's E-Filing system can be found in the [E-Filing System User Guide](#)

The Statement of Position and Responsive Statement of Position must be E-Filed but, unlike other E-Filed documents, must be filed by **noon** Eastern on the due date in order to be timely. If an election agreement is signed by all parties and returned to the Regional Office before the due date of the Statement of Position, the Statement of Position and Responsive Statement of Position are not required to be filed. If an election agreement is signed by all parties and returned to the Regional office after the due date of the Statement of Position but before the due date of the Responsive Statement of Position, the Responsive Statement of Position is not required to be filed.

Dated: November 27, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Drew-King", is positioned above a horizontal line.

---

KATHY DREW-KING  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD  
REGION 29  
Two Metro Tech Center  
Suite 5100  
Brooklyn, NY 11201-3838



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

REGION 29  
Two Metro Tech Center  
Suite 5100  
Brooklyn, NY 11201-3838

Agency Website: [www.nlrb.gov](http://www.nlrb.gov)  
Telephone: (718)330-7713  
Fax: (718)330-7579



Download  
NLRB  
Mobile App

November 27, 2020

**URGENT**

Washington-Baltimore News Guild, Local 32035  
1225 I Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005

[cparks@wbng.org](mailto:cparks@wbng.org)  
(202)785-3659

Cet Parks, Executive Director  
The News Guild - Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, CLC  
1225 I Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Verso Books, Inc.  
Case 29-RC-269454

Dear Mr. Parks:

The enclosed petition that you filed with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has been assigned the above case number. This letter tells you how to contact the Board agent who will be handling this matter; explains your obligation to provide the originals of the showing of interest and the requirement that you complete and serve a Responsive Statement of Position form in response to each timely filed and served Statement(s) of Position; notifies you of a hearing; describes the employer's obligation to post and distribute a Notice of Petition for Election, complete a Statement of Position and provide a voter list; requests that you provide certain information; notifies you of your right to be represented; and discusses some of our procedures including how to submit documents to the NLRB.

**Investigator:** This petition will be investigated by Field Attorney JAIME COSLOY whose telephone number is (718)765-6188. The Board agent will contact you shortly to discuss processing the petition. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Board agent. The Board agent may also contact you and the other party or parties to schedule a conference meeting or telephonic or video conference for some time before the close of business the day following receipt of the final Responsive Statement(s) of Position. This will give the parties sufficient time to determine if any issues can be resolved prior to hearing or if a hearing is necessary. If the agent is not available, you may contact Supervisory Attorney TERRI A. CRAIG whose telephone number is (718)765-6174. If appropriate, the NLRB attempts to schedule an election either by agreement of the parties or by holding a hearing and then directing an election.

**Showing of Interest:** If the Showing of Interest you provided in support of your petition was submitted electronically or by fax, the original documents which constitute the Showing of Interest containing handwritten signatures must be delivered to the Regional office within **2 business days**. If the originals are not received within that time the Region will dismiss your petition.

**Notice of Hearing:** A hearing will be conducted before a hearing officer by videoconference starting at **9:30 a.m. on December 17, 2020**. The Region will provide the parties with the information necessary to participate in the videoconference hearing in a separate communication with the parties. At the hearing, the parties will have the right to appear in person or otherwise and give testimony. The hearing will continue on consecutive days until concluded.

Upon request of a party showing good cause, the regional director may postpone the hearing. A party desiring a postponement should make the request to the regional director in writing, set forth in detail the grounds for the request, and include the positions of the other parties regarding the postponement. E-Filing the request is required. A copy of the request must be served simultaneously on all the other parties, and that fact must be noted in the request.

**Posting and Distribution of Notice:** The Employer must post the enclosed Notice of Petition for Election by **Friday, December 4, 2020**, in conspicuous places, including all places where notices to employees are customarily posted. If it customarily communicates electronically with its employees in the petitioned-for unit, it must also distribute the notice electronically to them. The Employer must maintain the posting until the petition is dismissed or withdrawn or this notice is replaced by the Notice of Election. Failure to post or distribute the notice may be grounds for setting aside the election if proper and timely objections are filed.

**Statement of Position:** In accordance with Section 102.63(b) of the Board's Rules, the Employer is required to complete the enclosed Statement of Position form, have it signed by an authorized representative, and file a completed copy with any necessary attachments, with this office and serve it on all parties named in the petition by **noon Eastern Time on December 9, 2020**. The Statement of Position must include a list of the full names, work locations, shifts, and job classifications of all individuals in the proposed unit as of the payroll period preceding the filing of the petition who remain employed at the time of filing. If the Employer contends that the proposed unit is inappropriate, it must separately list the full names, work locations, shifts

and job classifications of all individuals that it contends must be added to the proposed unit to make it an appropriate unit. The Employer must also indicate those individuals, if any, whom it believes must be excluded from the proposed unit to make it an appropriate unit.

**Required Responsive Statement of Position (RSOP):** In accordance with Section 102.63(b) of the Board's Rules, following timely filing and service of a Statement of Position, the petitioner is required to complete the enclosed Responsive Statement of Position form addressing issues raised in any Statement(s) of Position. The petitioner must file a complete, signed RSOP in response to all other parties' timely filed and served Statement of Position, with all required attachments, with this office and serve it on all parties named in the petition such that it is received by them by **noon Eastern Time on December 14, 2020**. This form solicits information that will facilitate entry into election agreements or streamline the pre-election hearing if the parties are unable to enter into an election agreement. **This form must be e-Filed, but unlike other e-Filed documents, will not be timely if filed on the due date but after noon Eastern Time.** If you have questions about this form or would like assistance in filling out this form, please contact the Board agent named above.

*Failure to Supply Information:* Failure to supply the information requested by the RSOP form may preclude you from litigating issues under Section 102.66(d) of the Board's Rules and Regulations. Section 102.66(d) provides as follows:

A party shall be precluded from raising any issue, presenting any evidence relating to any issue, cross-examining any witness concerning any issue, and presenting argument concerning any issue that the party failed to raise in its timely Statement of Position or to place in dispute in response to another party's Statement of Position or response, except that no party shall be precluded from contesting or presenting evidence relevant to the Board's statutory jurisdiction to process the petition. Nor shall any party be precluded, on the grounds that a voter's eligibility or inclusion was not contested at the pre-election hearing, from challenging the eligibility of any voter during the election. If a party contends that the proposed unit is not appropriate in its Statement of Position but fails to specify the classifications, locations, or other employee groupings that must be added to or excluded from the proposed unit to make it an appropriate unit, the party shall also be precluded from raising any issue as to the appropriateness of the unit, presenting any evidence relating to the appropriateness of the unit, cross-examining any witness concerning the appropriateness of the unit, and presenting argument concerning the appropriateness of the unit. If the employer fails to timely furnish the lists of employees described in §§ 102.63(b)(1)(iii), (b)(2)(iii), or (b)(3)(iii), the employer shall be precluded from contesting the appropriateness of the proposed unit at any time and from contesting the eligibility or inclusion of any individuals at the pre-election hearing, including by presenting evidence or argument, or by cross-examination of witnesses.

**Voter List:** If an election is held in this matter, the Employer must transmit to this office and to the other parties to the election, an alphabetized list of the full names and addresses of all



eligible voters, including their shifts, job classifications, work locations, and other contact information including available personal email addresses and available personal home and cellular telephone numbers. Usually, the list must be furnished within 2 business days of the issuance of the Decision and Direction of Election or approval of an election agreement. The list must be electronically filed with the Region and served electronically on the other parties. To guard against potential abuse, this list may not be used for purposes other than the representation proceeding, NLRB proceedings arising from it or other related matters.

Under existing NLRB practice, an election is not ordinarily scheduled for a date earlier than 10 days after the date when the Employer must file the voter list with the Regional Office. However, a petitioner and/or union entitled to receive the voter list may waive all or part of the 10-day period by executing Form NLRB-4483, which is available on the NLRB's website or from an NLRB office. A waiver will not be effective unless all parties who are entitled to the voter list agree to waive the same number of days.

**Information Needed Now:** Please submit to this office, as soon as possible, the following information needed to handle this matter:

- (a) The correct name of the Union as stated in its constitution or bylaws.
- (b) A copy of any existing or recently expired collective-bargaining agreements, and any amendments or extensions, or any recognition agreements covering any employees in the petitioned-for unit.
- (c) If potential voters will need notices or ballots translated into a language other than English, the names of those languages and dialects, if any.
- (d) The name and contact information for any other labor organization (union) claiming to represent or have an interest in any of the employees in the petitioned-for unit and for any employer who may be a joint employer of the employees in the proposed unit. Failure to disclose the existence of an interested party may delay the processing of the petition.

**Right to Representation:** You have the right to be represented by an attorney or other representative in any proceeding before the NLRB. In view of our policy of processing these cases expeditiously, if you wish to be represented, you should obtain representation promptly. Your representative must notify us in writing of this fact as soon as possible by completing Form NLRB-4701, Notice of Appearance. This form is available on our website, [www.nlr.gov](http://www.nlr.gov), or from an NLRB office upon your request.

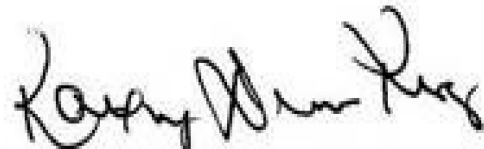
If someone contacts you about representing you in this case, please be assured that no organization or person seeking your business has any "inside knowledge" or favored relationship with the NLRB. Their knowledge regarding this matter was obtained only through access to information that must be made available to any member of the public under the Freedom of Information Act.

**Procedures:** Pursuant to Section 102.5 of the Board's Rules and Regulations, parties must submit all documentary evidence, including statements of position, exhibits, sworn

statements, and/or other evidence, by electronically submitting (E-Filing) them through the Agency's web site ([www.nlr.gov](http://www.nlr.gov)). You must e-file all documents electronically or provide a written statement explaining why electronic submission is not possible or feasible. Failure to comply with Section 102.5 will result in rejection of your submission. The Region will make its determinations solely based on the documents and evidence properly submitted. All evidence submitted electronically should be in the form in which it is normally used and maintained in the course of business (i.e., native format). Where evidence submitted electronically is not in native format, it should be submitted in a manner that retains the essential functionality of the native format (i.e., in a machine-readable and searchable electronic format). If you have questions about the submission of evidence or expect to deliver a large quantity of electronic records, please promptly contact the Board agent investigating the petition.

Information about the NLRB and our customer service standards is available on our website, [www.nlr.gov](http://www.nlr.gov), or from an NLRB office upon your request. We can provide assistance for persons with limited English proficiency or disability. Please let us know if you or any of your witnesses would like such assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Drew-King", is positioned above the typed name.

KATHY DREW-KING  
Regional Director

Enclosures

1. Petition
2. Notice of Petition for Election (Form 5492)
3. Notice of Representation Hearing
4. Description of Procedures in Certification and Decertification Cases (Form 4812)
5. Statement of Position form and Commerce Questionnaire (Form 505)
6. Responsive Statement of Position (Form 506)

cc: Robert E. Paul, Attorney  
1025 Connecticut Ave. NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20036



# National Labor Relations Board



## NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ELECTION

This notice is to inform employees that Washington-Baltimore News Guild, Local 32035 has filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), a Federal agency, in Case 29-RC-269454 seeking an election to become certified as the representative of the employees of Verso Books, Inc. in the unit set forth below:

**Included:** All employees in the marketing and publicity department, operations/ IT department, managing editorial department, accounts department, and editorial department  
**Excluded:** Supervisors, managerial employees, confidential employees and guards as defined in the Act.

This notice also provides you with information about your basic rights under the National Labor Relations Act, the processing of the petition, and rules to keep NLRB elections fair and honest.

## YOU HAVE THE RIGHT under Federal Law

- To self-organization
- To form, join, or assist labor organizations
- To bargain collectively through representatives of your own choosing
- To act together for the purposes of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection
- To refuse to do any or all of these things unless the union and employer, in a state where such agreements are permitted, enter into a lawful union-security agreement requiring employees to pay periodic dues and initiation fees. Nonmembers who inform the union that they object to the use of their payments for nonrepresentational purposes may be required to pay only their share of the union's costs of representational activities (such as collective bargaining, contract administration, and grievance adjustments).

## PROCESSING THIS PETITION

Elections do not necessarily occur in all cases after a petition is filed. **NO FINAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE YET** regarding the appropriateness of the proposed unit or whether an election will be held in this matter. If appropriate, the NLRB will first see if the parties will enter into an election agreement that specifies the method, date, time, and location of an election and the unit of employees eligible to vote. If the parties do not enter into an election agreement, usually a hearing is held to receive evidence on the appropriateness of the unit and other issues in dispute. After a hearing, an election may be directed by the NLRB, if appropriate.

**IF AN ELECTION IS HELD**, it will be conducted by the NLRB by secret ballot and Notices of Election will be posted before the election giving complete details for voting.

## ELECTION RULES

The NLRB applies rules that are intended to keep its elections fair and honest and that result in a free choice. If agents of any party act in such a way as to interfere with your right to a free election, the election can be set aside by the NLRB. Where appropriate the NLRB provides other remedies, such as reinstatement for employees fired for exercising their rights, including backpay from the party responsible for their discharge.

The following are examples of conduct that interfere with employees' rights and may result in setting aside the election:

- Threatening loss of jobs or benefits by an employer or a union
- Promising or granting promotions, pay raises, or other benefits, to influence an employee's vote by a party capable of carrying out such promises
- An employer firing employees to discourage or encourage union activity or a union causing them to be fired to encourage union activity
- Making campaign speeches to assembled groups of employees on company time, where attendance is mandatory, within the 24-hour period before the polls for the election first open or, if the election is conducted by mail, from the time and date the ballots are scheduled to be sent out by the Region until the time and date set for their return
- Incitement by either an employer or a union of racial or religious prejudice by inflammatory appeals
- Threatening physical force or violence to employees by a union or an employer to influence their votes

Please be assured that IF AN ELECTION IS HELD, every effort will be made to protect your right to a free choice under the law. Improper conduct will not be permitted. All parties are expected to cooperate fully with the NLRB in maintaining basic principles of a fair election as required by law. The NLRB as an agency of the United States Government does not endorse any choice in the election.

For additional information about the processing of petitions, go to [www.nlr.gov](http://www.nlr.gov) or contact the NLRB at (718)330-7713.

THIS IS AN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT NOTICE AND MUST NOT BE DEFACED BY ANYONE. IT MUST REMAIN POSTED WITH ALL PAGES SIMULTANEOUSLY VISIBLE UNTIL REPLACED BY THE NOTICE OF ELECTION OR THE PETITION IS DISMISSED OR WITHDRAWN.



## National Labor Relations Board





**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
BEFORE THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD  
REGION 29**



<b>Verso Books, Inc.</b>  <b>Employer</b>  <b>and</b>  <b>Washington-Baltimore News Guild, Local 32035</b>  <b>Petitioner</b>	<b>Case 29-RC-269454</b>
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**NOTICE OF REPRESENTATION HEARING**

The Petitioner filed the attached petition pursuant to Section 9(c) of the National Labor Relations Act. It appears that a question affecting commerce exists as to whether the employees in the unit described in the petition wish to be represented by a collective-bargaining representative as defined in Section 9(a) of the Act.


YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a hearing will be conducted before a hearing officer by videoconference starting **at 9:30 a.m. on December 17, 2020**. The Region will provide the parties with the information necessary to participate in the videoconference hearing in a separate communication with the parties. At the hearing, the parties will have the right to appear in person or otherwise and give testimony. The hearing will continue on consecutive days until concluded.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that, pursuant to Section 102.63(b) of the Board's Rules and Regulations, Verso Books, Inc. must complete the Statement of Position and file it and all attachments with the Regional Director and serve it on the parties listed on the petition such that is received by them by no later than **noon** Eastern time on **December 9, 2020**. Following timely filing and service of a Statement of Position by Verso Books, Inc., the Petitioner must complete its Responsive Statement of Position(s) responding to the issues raised in the Employer's and/or Union's Statement of Position and file them and all attachments with the Regional Director and serve them on the parties named in the petition such that they are received by them no later than **noon** Eastern on **December 14, 2020**.

**Pursuant to Section 102.5 of the Board's Rules and Regulations, all documents filed in cases before the Agency must be filed by electronically submitting (E-Filing) through the Agency's website ([www.nlrb.gov](http://www.nlrb.gov)), unless the party filing the document does not have access to the means for filing electronically or filing electronically would impose an undue burden.** Documents filed by means other than E-Filing must be accompanied by a statement explaining why the filing party does not have access to the means for filing electronically or filing electronically would impose an undue burden. Detailed instructions for using the NLRB's E-Filing system can be found in the [E-Filing System User Guide](#)

The Statement of Position and Responsive Statement of Position must be E-Filed but, unlike other E-Filed documents, must be filed by **noon** Eastern on the due date in order to be timely. If an election agreement is signed by all parties and returned to the Regional Office before the due date of the Statement of Position, the Statement of Position and Responsive Statement of Position are not required to be filed. If an election agreement is signed by all parties and returned to the Regional office after the due date of the Statement of Position but before the due date of the Responsive Statement of Position, the Responsive Statement of Position is not required to be filed.

Dated: November 27, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Drew-King", is positioned above a horizontal line.

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KATHY DREW-KING  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD  
REGION 29  
Two Metro Tech Center  
Suite 5100  
Brooklyn, NY 11201-3838